

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Annual Report

2006

Presenting the work of the past year and our goals for a sustainable future as steward of Washington's state trust lands and other natural resources.



This report was prepared by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Doug Sutherland

Commissioner of Public Lands

This annual report provides information required by the following statutes: RCW 79.10.010, RCW 79.64.100 and RCW 79.64.030

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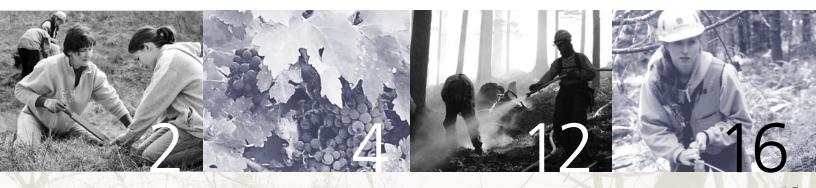
DNR Communications Group

PO Box 47003

Olympia, WA 98504-7003 **Email:** information@dnr.wa.gov

Phone: 360-902-1016

TTY: 7-1-1



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DID YOU KNOW?

A few facts about DNR.

DNR manages more than 5.3 million acres of state lands:

- ▶ 2.9 million acres of upland trust lands, including forest, range, agricultural land, and commercial properties that support public schools, universities, prisons, and other state institutions.
- ▶ 2.4 million acres of aquatic lands: many beaches, the bedlands under Puget Sound, the coast, natural lakes, and navigable rivers.
- ▶ 119,000 acres of Natural Areas that protect rare and threatened species as well as highquality examples of the native ecosystems and landscapes of Washington.



A Message from the Commissioner of Public Lands

Effective stewardship of Washington's natural resources across our state's diverse landscapes requires a comprehensive approach to management. It requires us to look at the big picture, and to understand that the goals and accomplishments of a single year contribute to a much larger process designed to sustain these resources for both present and future generations.

COLLABORATION

Among the landmark achievements of 2006 was the signing of the Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan, protecting streams and stream-side habitat in state and private forests across Washington. We made significant progress on long-term projects, like creosote cleanup in Puget Sound.

We continued to cultivate new economic opportunities, like leases for wind power and winery and vineyard development in eastern Washington; and we invested in the future through environmental education.

The Future of Washington's Forests Project facilitated key research and produced policy recommendations to address the changing nature of the state's forests and forest industry. **\rightarrow**

WORKING TO SUSTAIN WASHINGTON'S DIVERSE AND ABUNDANT RESOURCES FOR BOTH PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

November 7

DNR begins a comprehensive evaluation of wildland fire protection, which will lead to the development of a new strategic plan designed to respond to current conditions and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of wildland fire protection. See page 12

January 27

DNR Foresters Jason Fieghner and Chris Michaels are honored as Wilderness Rescue Heroes at the 12th Annual Real Heroes Breakfast of Tacoma-Pierce County.



February 14

With funding from the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, DNR hires two new trail wardens to provide public education and enforcement within the Mountains to Sound Greenway corridor.

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

Fiscal Year 2006 begins

JULY

2005



Another focus in 2006 was evaluation of forest health conditions and development of strategies for addressing them. The critical nature of this work became quite apparent as DNR met the challenges of an intense wildfire season.

In December, we said thanks and farewell to two of DNR's great friends: Pat McElroy and Board of Natural Resources member, Ted Anderson. We wish them the best in their future pursuits.

DNR's accomplishments in 2006 demonstrate our commitment to

sustainable resource management and reflect the variety of work we do to preserve Washington's natural legacy, serve present and future beneficiaries, and protect the environment. As we move forward in 2007, we'll continue to pursue the goal of sustainability, seeking out new solutions, opportunities, and partnerships

► At DNR, we envision a future in which our human and natural environment provides abundant and diverse social, ecological, and economic benefits for all the people of Washington, in this and all future generations. In acting to ensure this vision, we achieve sustainability.



to meet the challenges ahead.

April 3 Volunteers and DNR staff celebrate Earth Day at Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve, where they remove invasive weeds from this National Natural Landmark site.

APRIL

June 5

Commissioner Sutherland and Governor Gregoire sign the Forest **Practices Habitat** Conservation Plan. See page 15



July 24 Lightning starts the Tripod Complex wildland fire, which by mid-September burns more than 175,000 acres in Okanogan County. See page 14

August 10

DNR's Geology & Earth Resources Division hosts the 2nd Annual **Decision-Makers** Field Conference to educate legislators and others about Washington's geological hazards.

September 15

At the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup, Commissioner Sutherland hands out Douglas-fir seedlings grown by Webster Forest Nursery.

October 31

82 acres of tidelands in the southern part of Fidalgo Bay are added to lands managed by DNR as a protected area. The total 532 acre area is under consideration for state Aquatic Reserve status.



SEPTEMBER MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

DOUG SUTHERLAND

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

Fiscal Year 2006 ends

Fiscal Year 2007 begins